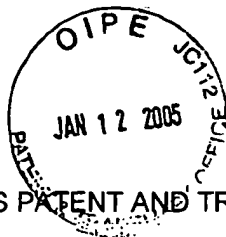


Appl. No. 10/608,898
Declaration dated
Reply to Office Action of 9-10-2004
Attorney Docket No. 916-030481



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/608,898 Confirmation No. 7789
Applicant : William A. Groll
Filed : June 27, 2003
Title : Bonded Metal Components Having Uniform Thermal
Conductivity Characteristics and Method of Making Same
Group Art Unit : 1775
Examiner : John J. Zimmerman
Customer No. : 28289

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM A. GROLL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, William A. Groll, hereby declare and say as follows.

1. I am the named inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application. I am employed by All-Clad Metalcrafters LLC, the assignee of the subject application, and hold the title of Vice President Technical Services.

2. I was awarded a degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Point Park College and have over 25 years of experience in metal bonding in the manufacture and forming of multi-layer composite metal cookware and related products and have gained invaluable experience in this field by working many years with the late John Ulam, a pioneer in metal bonding technology.

3. I have carefully studied the disclosure of United States Patent No. 3,340,597 dated September 12, 1967, to Stein et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Stein"). I have also studied the Office Action of September 10, 2004, in which the Stein patent was cited as anticipating claims 1, 4, 6-7 and 13-15, and as rendering obvious claims 12 and 16-17 in view of applicant's disclosure of the prior art.

Considered by 2/7/05